

These are the unadopted Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 11 April 2016 in the Zebon Copse Centre, Danvers Drive, Crookham. Please refer to the Minutes of the May Parish Council meeting for any amendments.

Present: Cllr. Simon Ambler (Chairman), residents of the Parish, and Parish Cllrs' Julia Ambler, Clive Eastwood, David Jackson and Ward Cllr. Tony Clarke.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Peter Crawley and Dr. Sinka, and County Cllr. John Bennison, Mr. David Stenning and Mrs. Makepeace-Browne.

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting for Crookham Village Parish Council. As always, I should like to start by extending my thanks to all my fellow Councillors for all their hard work over the last year. In addition to the formal business of the Council, they do a huge amount of work to help with the various projects in which CVPC is engaged. Their time is given on a voluntary basis and is unpaid. We also have four members of staff: our clerk Carol, Angela our Responsible Financial Officer and our two centre Managers at the Zebon Community Centre, Tabby and Lucy. All of them work incredibly hard and we are very grateful for the dedication they show to their roles.

Planning

At last year's Annual Parish Meeting, I spoke at length about the forthcoming Appeal against the refusal by HDC of outline permission for 300 houses on Land at Watery Lane which started in April. The Parish Council, supported by members of the local community and FACE-IT, mounted a vigorous defence against the Appeal by the Developer. Although the Inspector allowed the Appeal, the Parish Council managed to negotiate a significant contribution from the Developer towards improved local leisure facilities for the Parish which should help to mitigate the detrimental impact of this new development on our existing residents. Shortly after the end of that Appeal, the Parish was faced with a major planning application for 423 new homes on the land north of Netherhouse Copse, part of Grove Farm. Yet again the Parish Council worked with the local community to make representations against this development to the Planning Committee at Hart District Council and we were pleased when the outline planning application was refused. Although this decision was not the subject of an Appeal, the site has been included as a SHLAA in the recent HDC Local Plan consultation, of which we await the results.

I should also like to comment on the recent developments on the other major SHLAA site in our Parish - Cross Farm. Members of the Parish Council attended the consultation at the Social Club just after Easter and listened to the views of the local community with regard to the proposed development of a retirement village on the site. We took a careful note of all the views expressed and can confirm that we will ensure that we represent the views of the majority of our residents at any future planning application.

Precept

This year saw yet another rise in our overall budget for the Parish of around £11,000 which represents a 9.5% increase over last year and equates to £6.09 for a band D household. Unlike last year, unfortunately this increase does not represent new major projects for the Parish Council but is simply the result of areas previously the responsibility of HDC and HCC being devolved down to Parish level and increased costs. This does mean that we now are taking more responsibility and have more control of the maintenance of our environment through initiatives such as the Lengthsman scheme. We will continue to work hard to ensure we achieve value for money in all areas.

Lea Green Play Area

At the start of 2015, CVPC finished the improvements to the play equipment in the Netherhouse Moor children's play area by adding zip wire, basketball/football net and several pieces of adult gym equipment, all of which are proving very popular.

Crondall Rd Traffic Calming

I would probably be over optimistic in saying that we have reached a conclusion on this project, as there are clearly still issues to be resolved. Carol tells me that this was one of the hot topics when Councillor Crawley was first appointed to CVPC 40 years ago and it has rumbled on for much of the intervening period. I am delighted to say that HCC finally completed the installation of the traffic calming measures in July 2015 together with an additional footway from the canal car park to the Exchequer. Even this was not without its problems as the paving slabs used to prevent the banking from collapsing adjacent to the new footway kept moving to the extent that they provided a significant danger to pedestrians. Finally, common sense prevailed and the banking was stabilised using suitable planting which has now resolved the problem.

Lengthsman Scheme

Since 2014 / 15, we have been part of the Lengthsman scheme run by HCC which allows us to do some minor highway and maintenance works normally undertaken by the County or District and to this end we were given a grant of £1000 per year. This financial year, we were asked to take the lead for schemes in our area but, due to a lack of resources, were unable to do so and unfortunately these works have not been done. We have been working hard to reinstate this valuable scheme and HCC have finally agreed that we can continue to undertake local work on their behalf without benefit of the grant. We are currently awaiting completion of the legal agreement for this and hope to resume our work under this scheme soon. Meanwhile we are continuing to work with the Payback Team to complete essential local maintenance projects such as clearing drainage ditches.

Resilience Plan

In the last year, CVPC produced a resilience plan that has been agreed with the overarching Emergency Planning Department at Hampshire County Council and shared with Hart District Council and interested neighbouring parish councils. Much of this plan is associated with communication between the relevant agencies and how to get further support in the event of an emergency. The parish council will set up a control centre in the Zebon Copse Centre which will then be used as a liaison point, upwards to HDC and HCC and down to local facilities. We have also purchased a defibrillator which is lodged at the Spar Shop on Frenchman's Creek. We hope to purchase a second defibrillator to be sited in Crookham Village. Our sincere thanks go to former Councillor Eastment who developed and implemented this plan.

Web Site

Finally, you may have noticed that the Parish Council has a new smart website which has been developed in the last year. Councillor Jackson and I have worked hard with the developer to ensure that we have a smart new image. Our new website is not only accessible from desktop computers but is also available in a suitable format for use on mobile technology and is also easier to use.

2. REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Work has continued on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Crookham Village Parish and our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is currently working on the development of local policies for our area. We have completed the initial consultation with residents as to the aims and objectives for the plan and hope to publish the results of this consultation on the NP website shortly. There is still much to be done if we are to get our draft policies ready for the next consultation in the summer and we would welcome assistance from members of the community with a little time to spare to join a working party.

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS' QUESTION TIME

None of the public wished to ask any questions.

4. TRUSTEES AND APPOINTEES REPORTS

(i) Crookham War Memorial Halls Trust

This local facility is well established and well run and little changes from year to year. There are two halls, the Memorial and Willis halls which are owned and managed by the Trust, they both continue to have a high level of usage. Whilst the business model is completely different from that which we use for ZCC, being operated as a charity and relying mainly on volunteer assistance, the halls provide a valuable community facility. As predicted, the new Church Crookham Parish Community Centre has had no detrimental impact on bookings which are up significantly compared to previous years. The trust maintains a reasonable reserve equivalent to around two year's expenditure and income continues to match or slightly exceed expenditure.

(ii) Crondall/Crookham/Fleet Welfare Trust

Mrs. Wendy Makepeace-Browne had sent a written report. "As background for any meeting attendees who are not aware, this Trust was originally set up around 1830 to provide fuel for the poor as it had become illegal for people to cut their own turf from waste land. The Trust has changed over time and now helps by giving financial aid instead of actual fuel. Since the Board membership changed significantly in 2014, the Charity has gone in a new direction and no longer actively fund raises due to the amount of money held in the Trust account. We now make higher value donations to those whom we support and this is making a real difference to people's day-to-day lives. WE have also started a programme whereby we donate to other local charities that offer similar support to us, as we are finding it increasingly difficult to get to the right people due to data protection etc. Where we find other organisations that have direct contacts it seemed sensible to work in collaboration with them. We are into our second year of turning the Charity around, after which time the Board will make a decision on the future of the Trust. Our latest filed accounts show that we gave out 'gifts' of nearly £2.5K for 2014/15 and I believe this is the most the Trust has ever given in one year. The funds in our investment account continue to perform well and, whilst not actively raising money, we do continue to have collection tins in six locations around our area and are grateful for the donations we receive via them. We are constantly looking for local people who would benefit from our work and would welcome any contact information for people who are eligible to benefit from the Trust. Many of us think that we live in an affluent area, but locally, we have a huge number of people being supported by the state and charities these people are quite literally on the breadline. Through pride or ignorance they often don't come forward so we need any help we can get to reach these people. We have funds and we want to direct them to where they are needed most."

(iii) Cottrell's Almshouse Trust

Mrs. Wendy Makepeace-Browne had sent a written report. "Again, as background for any meeting attendees who are not aware of this Trust, it is a 16 flat Almshouse located on Gally Hill Road in Church Crookham and was started in 1844 by Mrs. Isabella Cottrell in order to look after 'poor persons of good character who are inhabitants of the district of Hart with special preference for such persons who are resident in local parishes'. The occupancy of our units covers a range of people, at different stages of their lives, who are with us for many different reasons. It is often a difficult task in taking new residents on when a vacancy comes up, as we need to make sure that we are only taking in people who fit the criteria of the Trust rules and often we get applicants who are in dire need but we have to decline

them as they are not a constitutional fit for our accommodation. It is also our duty as a Board, to make sure that as many people as possible use the flats as a step through (where appropriate) to a more permanent home elsewhere, rather than just getting in and staying there because the rents for Almshouses are very low. The Trust looks to act as a stepping stone and prefers to give people a helping hand to get back on their feet and then help them move on in order to allow us to help the next person.

The Charity continues to fund itself well by managing its reserves, whilst keeping on top of the high levels of maintenance required to keep the 16 flat building in good order. We are coming to the end of a refurbishment programme of boilers for all flats and are mid-way through a kitchen refurbishment programme, which is being done as flats change occupancy to limit the disruption to our residents as much as possible. The past year has seen a change in several Trustees and also in the Chairmanship of the Trust which, whilst sad, has proved to be the right decision and we continue to run as a strong, professional Board at full membership.”

5. CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING

None received.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Marratt – spoke about the Crondall Road traffic calming – what happened about the safety audit? What is the format of a safety report? The Chairman said a qualified traffic engineer will make sure it meets all the relevant criteria. She mentioned the accidents which had resulted in several vehicles bursting tyres. She wished to have input into the safety audit as local people know more about the issues than highways officers. Mr. Whyatt said he has been monitoring this for 17 years and five times in the last month alone. He reminded the Chairman he had requested an FOI on HCC in relation to traffic speeds and after two months he had received only details on Pilcot Road dated 2007 and was advised that no more surveys had been done. He knows that this is wrong as HCC had carried out surveys on Crondall Road before the current traffic calming. Cllr. Clarke said it might be that a survey had been done by a consultant and HCC should request it from them. The Chairman believed that they might have difficulty in finding it. Clerk to ask for this information; Andrew.Kettlewell@HCC.gov.uk. Cllr. Jackson spoke and asked residents to please go to the new CVPC website and he would welcome residents views on the format. Mr. Marret spoke about the Cross Farm displays and was advised at the exhibition that all of the displays would be sent in PDF form to the Parish Council – he was advised that the Parish Council had not yet received these. Cllr. Jackson advised that currently an EIA has been put to HDC. He stressed that the time for actual comments should be when a planning application is actually received. The Chairman said this was a lesson to be learnt in that Bell Cornwall are floating this idea at the moment and you can be sure that if they have supportive comments from this exhibition these will be saved. Residents might like to look at the Hartley Wintney Appeal for a similar application. Philip Ashton asked about the change of use for the Pyestock development - now that it is to be housing - how does this affect Hart’s local plan? The Chairman said it will clearly have an impact and he will be interested to see how HDAPTC consider it at tomorrow’s meeting. It may shift the balance but there is a long way to go yet to see what the outcome will be. The Chairman said more will come to light after the May elections. The numbers in the last housing consultation – the rumours are that the numbers will go up slightly. There were 4,500 responses which are currently being analysed and will be made known in early May. Cllr. Jackson said the SANG site will be an issue. Mrs. Marret asked if the site at Pyestock was a brownfield site and the Chairman confirmed it was. In terms of planning approval the site will have to satisfy

planning requirements and there is a lot of work still to be done. Cllr. Jackson said with regard to choosing brownfield sites – these have to be available so owners have to be willing to sell. Cllr. Clarke said the Pyestock site is a contaminated site and it will be expensive to clean it up. The Chairman agreed that this was another issue in planning terms. Whilst 1500 dwellings have been mentioned you have to allow sites for schools, open spaces, affordable housing and relevant infrastructure. The Government say if the developer sends in a valuer and it is deemed unreasonable for the Planning Authority to impose an infrastructure levy then the levy cannot be imposed. The Chairman mentioned the McCarthy Stone properties on the corner of Kings Road and said they had used a business model which showed that the income from the sale of the properties deemed that they could not be expected to contribute to infrastructure costs. John Holmes asked that the County Cllr be advised of the damage to the verges and strongly bring it to the attention of the County Council. Mr. Whyatt said he had sent a large number of complaints to Andy Kettlewell so the PC could refer to these. This appears to be as a result of the lorries from Tudgey's nursery site using the road. The Chairman said there is a useful website called "fix my street" which then goes off to HDC and HCC to action and it is monitored by both Councils. Cllr. Jackson said there is a link to it from the Parish website. The Chairman advised that there are 3 vacancies for the Parish Council which will require filling and after May we will be in a position to co-opt. Cllr. Eastwood is our H&S expert and Environmental representative. Cllr. Jackson spoke about public transport and advised that the parish is supporting Fleet Link – he mentioned the number 10 bus service which gets you to and from Fleet station. In addition there is a taxi share scheme which is not well used but for which HCC pay a large retaining fee. Mrs. Marret said she drives for Communicare and there are leaflets at the surgery for this service but she has not noticed anything advertising these other services. Cllr. Jackson said he quite agreed with Mrs. Marrett that the organisations ought to be advertising these and they don't. Cllr. Eastwood mentioned the vandalism at the play area on which ropes had been cut – he asked was there a way to go forward – have we any thoughts before this escalates. The Chairman said that one piece of equipment at Lea Green had been vandalised so many times that it had finally had to be removed. The Chairman said we are not unique in this as he has learned that the new equipment on QEB has been the subject of the same attention and lots of unsavoury goings on. Cllr. Jackson asked if the barrier had yet been installed at Chequers Wharf but no one was aware of such a barrier. Following further debate mention was made of lack of a police presence and it was suggested that people keep reporting issues on 101 so that when enough reports are logged action will be undertaken by the police. The Chairman said the Community Centre Managers have a good working relationship with the police.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm